

NOTICES

The parish Christmas card is available at the back of both churches. Please take a batch and distribute – ideally within the next week, if possible; your help is greatly appreciated.

What is Advent? Tuesday 10th December, 7.30-9.30pm we will have a parish study evening in the Vicarage exploring the history of this season and its themes. All welcome; a variety of refreshments will be provided. Please let Jonny know if you intend to come.

Christmas Fayre! On **14th December, 2-5pm**, we will be holding a Parish Christmas Fayre in the Church and Parish Centre in aid of the Tower Fund, and we need your help please. We are looking for helpers on the day to man a stall and serve drinks, plus donations of cakes, bottles (of any kind), raffle prizes, stocking fillers, jars of sweets etc. Please see the flyer at the back of both churches for more details. If you can help on the day or provide a contribution of goods to be sold, please speak to any member of your Mission and Community committee or get in touch with Steph on 07788 580519. Thank you!

Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church: Fleetville Harmony - an a capella choir - will be singing a selection of popular, festive songs and hymns. Refreshments will be available, and donations will be welcomed. All proceeds to charity.

Saturday 7th December: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This is the last working party of the year, and it would be greatly appreciated if you can spare some time to help to tidy the churchyard before the winter.

Last call for anyone wanting to join the **Parish Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 11th December at the Inn on the Park at 12.30p.m.** We're confirming numbers tomorrow (2nd December) so please contact Sue on suecvaughan@btinternet.com in the next 24 hours if you want to come along.

FEED is asking for donations of **Christmas gifts** – new not used - for children aged 1-16. If you are able to donate a Christmas gift, please put it into the FEED box. Thank you for your support.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this Week

All services take place at St Michael's unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday

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| 8.00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism of George Pepper |
| 4.00 p.m. | Advent Carol Service |
| 6.00 p.m. | Choral Evensong (St Mary's) |

Wednesday, 4th December

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| 9.00 a.m. | St Michael's School Service |
| 10.00 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| 10.30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |

Sunday, 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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| 8.00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist |
| 4.00 p.m. | Christingle Service |
| 6.00 p.m. | Evensong (St Mary's) |

Contact Information:

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| Vicar: | The Rev'd Jonny Lloyd: vicar@parishofstmichaels.org.uk |
| Parish Office: | Georgie Ray: admin@parishofstmichaels.org.uk (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) |
| Telephone: | 01727 835037 Website: www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk |

Welcome to our worship this morning. Our young people go out after the first hymn for junior church, in which they are rehearsing for the parish nativity play in the 9.30am service on 15th December. For those who prefer to stay in the service, the children's corner contains themed-worksheets, books and toys if you'd like to keep little people busy, but there is no obligation to use it! If you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

All are welcome to stay for refreshments after the service in the Parish Centre. If you are new, we would love to meet you! Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a welcomer for access.

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Between the first and second readings Psalm 25 vv1-9 is sung

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee :
 O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.
For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed :
 but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.
Shew me thy ways, O Lord :
 and teach me thy paths.
Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me :
 for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies :
 and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth :
 but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.
Gracious and righteous is the Lord :
 therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement :
 and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth :
 unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

During Communion

"People, look East, the time is near" – Besançon Carol

Words are found in the blue book: Number 35

Prayer Over the Gifts

Father, from all you give us we present this bread and wine. As we serve you now, accept our offering and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Everyone working for and planning the parish Christmas Fayre on the 14th December
- All in fuel poverty this winter, and for the charities that support them
- George Pepper who is baptized today at St Michael's, and his parents and godparents as they support him in his journey of Christian faith
- Those who are ill, including: Ben Collins, Jacqui Follett, Debbie Greenwood, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Sam Mahoney, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Cora Marie Varshney
- Richard Caperon, all the recently departed, and those who mourn them
- This week the diocese asks us to pray for: *For those who run and attend after-school clubs*